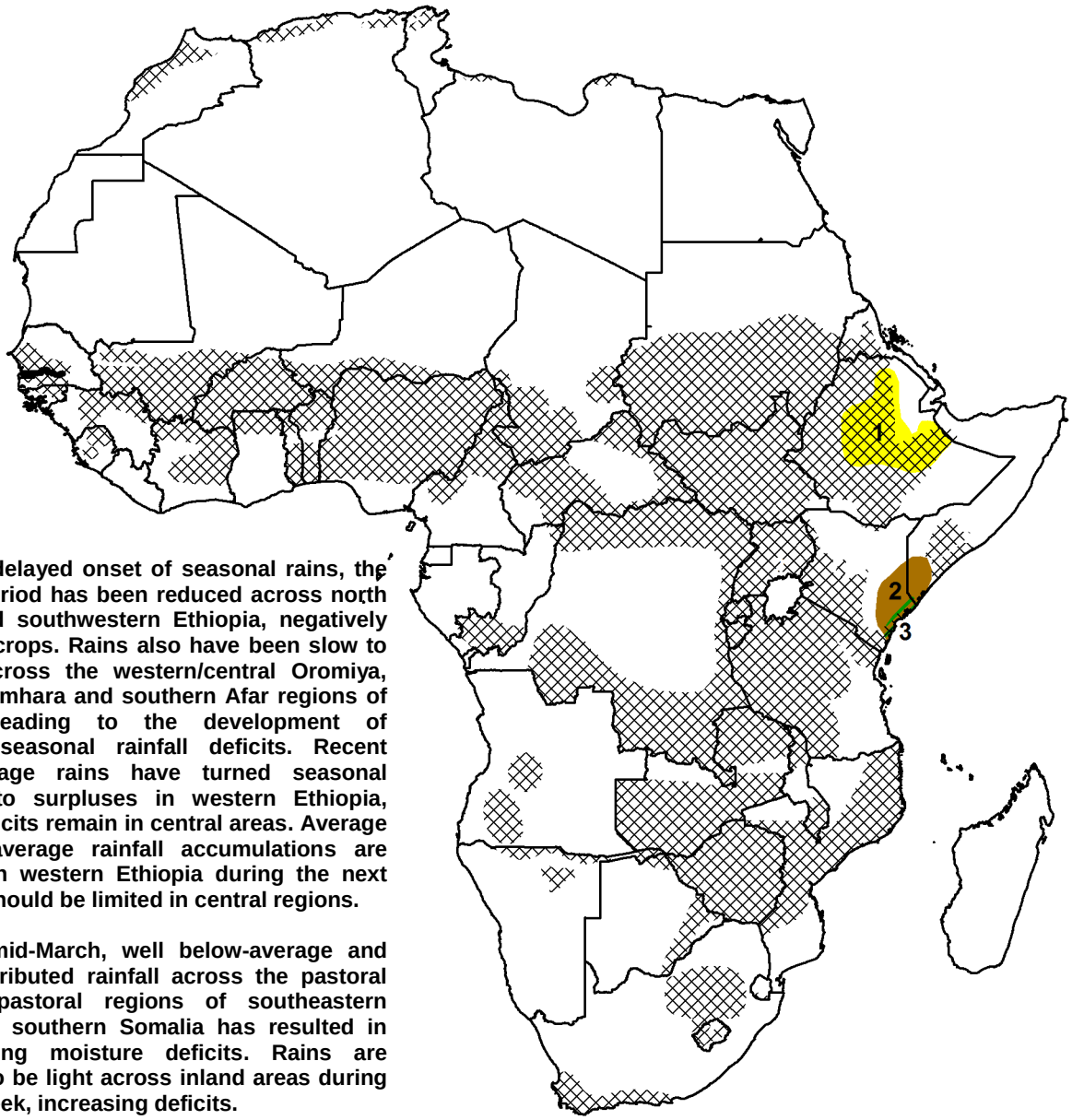
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
For USAID / FEWS-NET
June 7 – June 13, 2012

- **Reduced rainfall fell across eastern Africa, while widespread heavy rains were observed in the Gulf of Guinea during the last seven days.**

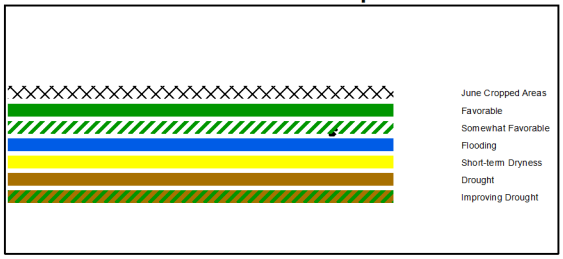


1) After a delayed onset of seasonal rains, the growing period has been reduced across north central and southwestern Ethiopia, negatively impacting crops. Rains also have been slow to develop across the western/central Oromiya, southern Amhara and southern Afar regions of Ethiopia leading to the development of moderate seasonal rainfall deficits. Recent above-average rains have turned seasonal deficits into surpluses in western Ethiopia, though deficits remain in central areas. Average to above-average rainfall accumulations are expected in western Ethiopia during the next week but should be limited in central regions.

2) Since mid-March, well below-average and poorly distributed rainfall across the pastoral and agro-pastoral regions of southeastern Kenya and southern Somalia has resulted in strengthening moisture deficits. Rains are expected to be light across inland areas during the next week, increasing deficits.

3) Three consecutive weeks of moderate coastal rain showers have resulted in greatly reduced deficits along the drought-stricken Kenyan coast. The above-average rains have greatly reduced seasonal and thirty-day rainfall deficits and have increased ground moisture, improving cropping conditions. Forecasts for next week indicate chance of light rains in the region, further improving drought conditions.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.



Reduced rainfall observed in eastern Africa

Compared to the previous week, the past seven days was characterized by a reduction in rainfall across eastern Africa. While the bulk (> 50 mm) of the rainfall fell over western Ethiopia, moderate to locally heavy (20 – 50 mm) rainfall was recorded throughout southern Sudan and western South Sudan (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, little to no rainfall was observed across the central portions of Ethiopia, increasing thirty-day negative anomalies in the region. Farther south, localized heavy rainfall was recorded in western Kenya, however not as widespread as during the previous several weeks. The heavy showers fell toward the late period of the past seven days and have contributed to sustain above-average rainfall in the Lake Victoria region over the past thirty days. Toward the east, light (< 10 mm) rainfall fell across the inland of eastern Kenya and along the coasts, where long-term dryness has already developed due to a poor rainfall distribution since the start of the season. The light rainfall has helped to compensate thirty-day rainfall deficits and improve drought conditions in the region.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall (mm)
Valid: May 29th – June 4th, 2012

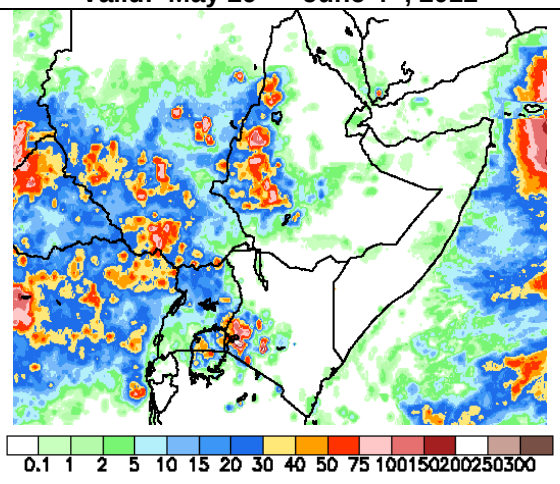


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Above-average rainfall frequency during the past thirty days has resulted in favorable soil moisture over portions of eastern Africa, including South Sudan, western Ethiopia, Uganda, and western Kenya. An analysis of the soil water index during the last dekad of May indicates favorable (> 80 percent) soil moisture conditions over South Sudan, western Ethiopia, and the Lake Victoria region of Kenya (**Figure 2**). However, areas such as central Ethiopia, eastern Kenya, and southern Somalia, which have also experienced below-average rainfall over the past thirty days showed depleted (< 30 percent) ground moisture. The continuation of poor rainfall distribution is likely to adversely affect agricultural and agro-pastoral activities in these regions.

Soil Water Index
Valid: As of the 3rd dekad of May, 2012

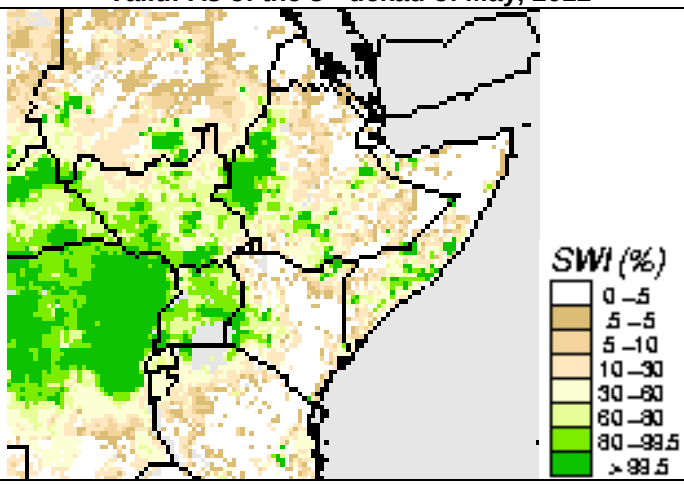


Figure 2: USGS/EROS

For next week, while heavy rainfall is expected over western Ethiopia and western Kenya, moderate to locally heavy rains are forecast over South Sudan and bordering Sudan. Meanwhile, light rainfall could fall over southern Somalia and along the Kenyan coasts during the next seven days.

Good start of the rainy season observed in West Africa.

Widespread heavy rainfall during the past week has further strengthened thirty-day rainfall surpluses in the Gulf of Guinea region. With the exceptions of central Mali, northern Burkina Faso, central parts of Nigeria, much of West Africa has experienced above-average rainfall over the past thirty days, indicating a favorable start of the rainfall season (**Figure 3**). Well above-average rainfall during the past seven days has helped to offset negative anomalies over many local areas of Nigeria. In southern Nigeria, although the region has experienced moderate rainfall deficits, rainfall has been frequent enough to sustain adequate ground moisture. For next week, moderate rainfall is expected over West Africa, with the heaviest (> 100 mm) amounts over northern Nigeria. The northward shift of the Inter-tropical front may also bring light rains across Mali and Niger.

Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: May 6th – June 4th, 2012

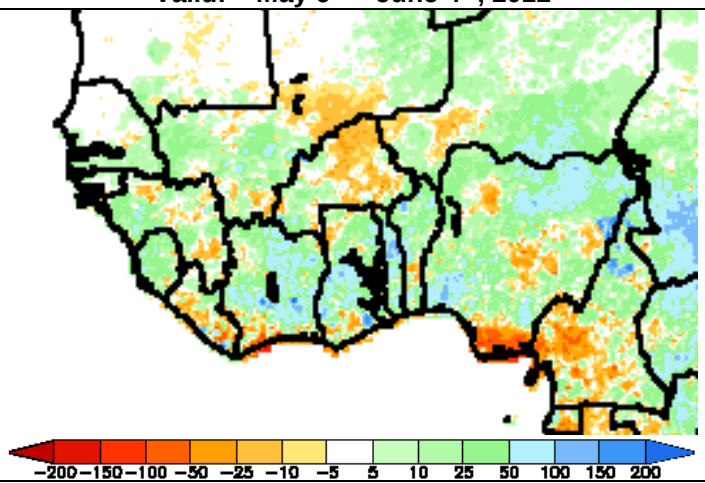


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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